THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 21st November 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort. St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Supply of ammonium phosphate and bone-meal for manure purposes.

* 40-A *Q.*—SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that ammonium phosphate and bone-meal were supplied to agriculturists at half rates for manure purposes up to 9th November 1949 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the said concession was withdrawn by the Government with effect from 9th November 1949 ;

(*c*) if so, what the reasons are that prompted the Government to withdraw the said concession ; and

(*d*) whether, in view of the Grow More Food Campaign, the Government have considered the advisability of restoring the concession? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The Government sanctioned the sale of phosphatic manures at half rates to ryots in connexion with the intensive cultivation scheme with effect from the 15th August 1949.

" (*b*) It is a fact that orders were issued on 5th November 1949 to stop the concession immediately.

" (*c*) In view of the financial stringency the Government of India have communicated their decision to cancel their share of subsidy for this scheme and consequently this Government had to withdraw the said concession.

" (*d*) The concession has been cancelled on account of financial stringency and so the question of immediately restoring it does not arise."

SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI :—" Will the Hon. Minister attempt to get the concession from the Government of India, because it is very necessary to improve food production? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We shall make representations to them."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" In view of the recent cyclone havoc, will the Government make further arrangements with the India Government for the issue of this concession for the current year also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We shall represent to the Government of India, the necessity for continuing this concession in the interests of the food production particularly in the Andhra districts on account of the cyclone havoc."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" In case the Government of India do not agree, may I ask, Sir, whether it is not advisable for this Government to take up this question and give concessions to the ryots? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is a matter which we shall have to consider. The Provincial Government's share in this scheme will amount to a little more than 42 lakhs of rupees."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that this Government are interested in food production, should they not at least reduce the price of manures to the extent to which they are prepared to forego their income? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The matter will have to be considered."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" The Madras Cabinet jointly gave an assurance that the Government are prepared to spend to any extent for the cyclone-affected areas of the Andhra districts and may I request the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to consider that this amount of Rs. 42 lakhs is nothing when compared to the huge expenditure for cyclone relief? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I understand that it was said on behalf of the Government that all that is necessary will be done for the rehabilitation of cyclone-affected areas."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether actions of this kind will not affect the food self-sufficiency programme by the ryots not taking enough interest and losing the enthusiasm that they have got now? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It will surely affect the programme; but the Government of India are themselvese very much interested in making the country self-sufficient in food and in the banning of imports by 1951; it is that Government that have taken this step."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Inasmuch as this Government are interested in making the province self-sufficient, will the Hon. Minister consider the question of continuing their portion of the subsidies? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. Minister has already answered that it will be considered."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister, Sir, in what other schemes the Government of India have withdrawn the concessions which they had agreed to give? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The well subsidy scheme has been modified and the amount of subsidy that they were giving for tractor cultivation has been withdrawn."

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JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Have the Government received any reference from the Collector of North Arcot that permit-holders of ammonium sulphate do not supply it to that district and that it is being sold in the blackmarket? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I suggest that a separate question may be put."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will not the withdrawal of this concession seriously affect the Government's programme to grow more food and attain self-sufficiency in two years? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It affects the programme no doubt, to some extent. The other day, Mr. R. K. Patil, the Food Commissioner of the Government of India, suggested that we should not depend solely on the supply of manure but that we must rely more on minor irrigation works."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, what is the total commitment for both Madras and the Central Governments, if the concession was not withdrawn."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The net cost of the scheme will be Rs. 84 and odd lakhs."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" In case this concession is withdrawn, the cost of production will go up and will the Government in that connexion, consider this and not reduce the price of paddy? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The price of paddy is another question and it does not arise out of this question."

Appointment of Women Police.

* 41 *Q*.—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the appointment of Women Police in accordance with the scheme submitted by the Post-War Reconstruction Committee?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" The question of employing women police has been very carefully considered and Government have decided that the proposal should be deferred for the present."

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" May I know, Sir, why the proposal has been deferred for the present; I hope it is not final? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Confidential reasons."

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" If the Government cannot appoint women police, may I ask them if they will at least appoint half a dozen more women patrollers—I do not know if the Government are aware of it—to check immoral traffic which is on the increase in the City? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The question of women police involves a lot of considerations, financial and otherwise. Although the Government quite appreciate the need of women police in this Province, it has been deferred for the